M E M O R A N D U M

March 22, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: WILLIAM GURVICH
INVESTIGATIVE AIDE

SUBJECT: RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR. - INTERVIEW WITH -
28 FEBRUARY 1967 HOUSTON, TEXAS

On 28 February 1967 at 4:40 P.M., Assistant District Attorney James Alcock and myself interviewed RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR., white male, age thirty-two, in his office, Room 214 Kirby Building, 3801 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas. Also present was his attorney, Joseph Damiani. The following was all related in the presence of this attorney.

DAVIS admitted he had known SERGIO ARCACHA for several years and it was ARCACHA who introduced him to DAVID FERRIE in New Orleans at ARCACHA's home in the Parkchester Apartments. DAVIS then resided 1570 Restbrook Drive in Parkchester living there for two and a half years from September 1961, to February 1964. According to DAVIS, ARCACHA lived two blocks away and was married. DAVIS stated he saw FERRIE three or four times, once in ARCACHA's office at 544 Camp Street. This was during the time of the "crusade" that which DAVIS was a member and ARCACHA was chairman.

At one such meeting, according to DAVIS, FERRIE said he would go to Cuba and bomb all installations there. ARCACHA told DAVIS that FERRIE was a pilot and DAVIS stated he observed immediately that FERRIE was homosexual just by looking at him. DAVIS said he saw FERRIE about twice at ARCACHA's house and maybe ten other times at all. According to DAVIS, he told ARCACHA he was wasting his time. Although the number of times DAVIS saw or met FERRIE are conflicting, the number of meetings stated herein are the statements of DAVIS.

On one occasion, DAVIS talked to FERRIE about an old Packard automobile which needed repair. This was fixed by JOSEPH MILLA, operator of Milla Shell Station for $56.00. MILLA is a Guatemalan. DAVIS at that time was planning to go to Puerto Rico. (At this point, DAVIS mentioned LESTER MARCUS DIAZ, an attorney in New Orleans). DAVIS stated that FERRIE threatened to file a civil suit against him over payment of the car repairs. DAVIS had offered to pay MILLA but ARCACHA had made his sudden and unexpected departure. First, DAVIS said this was in March 1962, then changed it to March 1963. DAVIS continued that this car was subsequently impounded in Miami by the Dade County Sheriff, but the fee was more than the value of the car and no further attempts were made to recover the vehicle. In the interim, according to DAVIS, he

sent 1963 Louisiana License Plates to LAUREANO BATISTA in Miami. BATISTA headed the Christian Democratic Movement.

DAVIS later joined a Louisiana corporation, Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corpoeration, purpose of which was to exploit the mahogany supply in Guatemala. MILLA and DAVIS went to Guatemala to investigate the erection of camps. While there, DAVIS telephone BATISTA asking for a foreman. Insurance regulations and requirements necessitated having men with some military training in these camps. A training camp was set up on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain near Lacombe, Louisiana on the DE LA BARRE property. DAVIS recalls bombs being seized at another camp nearby of which his group had no knowledge. Following that seizure, the owners of the property where this training camp was located were upset and wanted no part of this training to involve them.

One member of this camp was FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, an oriental, "One hundred per cent Chinese". DAVIS stated that FERRIE had nothing to do with this camp and that it was run by him and supported by BATISTA. Because of property owners' attitude the camp was disbanded. Some of the trainees went to Miami, Florida, via Greyhound Bus.

DAVIS admits having known GUY BANISTER. BANISTER wanted to join the anti-CASTRO group saying he was an ex-FBI man and could introduce DAVIS to people who had important connections. DAVIS stated he also met a Black Belt Karate expert with BANISTER. There was a discussion about putting poison in the air-conditioning ducts in the Havana Palace and killing all occupants. DAVIS identified BANISTER's photograph at this time. The Karate expert was described as being under forty years of age, weighing one hundred forty pounds, of slim build, light brown hair, and wore sport clothes. DAVIS recommended seeing ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ for additional information.

DAVIS could not identify a photograph of CLAY SHAW nor remember the name DEAN ANDREWS. He did identify a photograph of SERGIO ARCACHA.

DAVIS related that MILLA was "a sad story". His wife had left him and his father-in-law pressured MILLA through some influence with the New Orleans Police Department, and MILLA could not see his children. Frustrated, he went to California and then to Guatemala. MILLA has a brother who is a successful accountant and is apparently in Guatemala.

DAVIS stated he was standing on a corner near where LEE HARVEY OSWALD was distributing pamphlets and witnessed the scuffle between OSWALD and CARLOS BRINGUIER. Another man, a Latin-American with olive complexion, disappeared from the scene. DAVIS was of the opinion this man was with OSWALD and found his name as TORRES or GOMEZ CORTEZ.

DAVIS selected a photograph of LAYTEN MARTENS and said he had seen him with OSWALD. DAVIS said OSWALD later held a Fair Play for Cuba meeting by Lee Circle in New Orleans to protest the treatment of Cuba. The police came and disbanded the group. At that time, according to DAVIS, MARTENS was with OSWALD.

DAVIS said he had worked with the New York Police Department and said Chief Inspector McLaughlin would vouch for him. Also a MR. DAVID KEYSER of the Cuba-America Sugar Company would also vouch for his credibility. According to DAVIS the CIA contacted KEYSER four weeks prior to the Bay of Pigs. For six months, DAVIS had just been hanging around and watching Cubans in New York City. The Fair Play for Cuba committee was receiving money from CASTRO through Ontario, Canada. DAVIS said when he came to New Orleans, he contacted Superintendent Giarrusso and explained his mission. He said the New York Police were much friendlier and the reception here was a cold one.

DAVIS stated that at one time the President of Argentina was stopping in New Orleans at the Royal Orleans Hotel and DAVIS discouraged Cuban exiles from picketing.

DAVIS said he was introduced to OSWALD by CARLOS QUEIROGA. DAVIS said he wanted to infiltrate OSWALD's group and went to OSWALD's house on Magazine Street with QUEIROGA about 8:00 P.M. one night shortly after the BRINGUIER debate on television. OSWALD's wife was home and DAVIS could see Fair Play for Cuba leaflets inside the house. DAVIS did not actually enter the house as OSWALD came out on the sidewalk and conversed with them there. The meeting was very brief and DAVIS was not expected by OSWALD.

According to DAVIS, prior to this, OSWALD had wanted to join the DAVIS group and spoke of his Marine training, his shooting ability, and displayed a United States Marine Corps Manual. It was after this that OSWALD distributed the Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets on the street.

DAVIS stated that while the training camp was active north of the lake, some New Orleans men offered a forty-two foot boat for the training group's use. As he recalls, the wife of one of these men intervened and put an end to the boat offer.

A German scientist approached the anti-Castro group saying he had poison pellets the size of ping pong balls which would ignite when wet and these could be dropped in the sugar fields of Cuba and the moisture in the night air would be sufficient to cause ignition. This scientist wanted one million dollars in advance. According to DAVIS there was no further contact with him.

When asked about any Latins at Washington and Magazine Streets in New Orleans, DAVIS said he knew one LUIZ GUEVARA operated a business there and also owned a dry-cleaning shop in Harvey, Louisiana.

DAVIS said he did not know CLAY SHAW. The nem CLAY BERTRAND sounded only familiar to him as did the name EMILIO SANTANA. He said he had heard the name FABREGAS who was from Central America.

Referring to ALPHA 66, DAVIS stated this group was directed by the former president of Cuban accountants, he knew what people had money in foreign banks and would pressure these persons for contributions.

Other persons DAVIS knew, and his remarks aboutthem, follow.

DE LA VEGA was a nice man and is a public relations man for a Venezuelan airline.

GIL is a CPA and gave proof of how ALPHA 66 raised money.

BRINGUIER is a good fellow, whose father was a judge in Cuba. He was not connected with FERRIE like ARCACHA was.

LUIZ RABEL apparently had a laundry truck. His daughter and son-in-law wereinvolved in a shooting in New Orleans in 1961 which apparently stemmed from an act of infidelity.

DAVIS knows RONNIE CAIRE.

He also know ROMERO MONTALBO who is a dear friend who was at the Bay of Pigs.

According to DAVIS, MIGEL URIA sells stocks and bonds in New Orleans.

He claims to be a good friend of ALBERTO FOWLER.

He also knows of CARLOS FINLEY but knows nothing about him.

DAVIS stated he also knows SILVIA ODDIO and her brother. DAVIS stated he still carries a scar as a result of a fight with ODDIO when they were children in Cuba.

DAVIS says he knows G. WRAY GILL.

He also added GUS DE LA BARRE is the godfather of DAVIS's son.

Referring to the theft of explosives in Houma, Louisiana, DAVIS explained that FERRIE and ARCACHA were involved in this and when RABEL was told about it he wanted to know "If it had been cleared with the FBI". PIEDRA was also told of this and warned that this was "C-3" and very dangerous.

According to DAVIS, the FBI came to him the next day after the assassination of President Kennedy wanting a statement about OSWALD's funds.

DAVIS stated he once attended a party where he met someone resembling the description of CLAY SHAW, who spoke in a Communistic manner. DAVIS had words with him and later reported him to the FBI but cannot now recall his name. This party was held in a building which had two statues of large lions at the entrance. As he recalls, this place was for hire.

DAVIS is an encyclopedia salesman. At the time of our interview, he was well dressed and sat at his desk in a small, well-furnished office with his feet on the desk and smoked a cigar. My impression of him was that he was intelligent, had a fair memory and was somewhat a bragger.

WILLIAM GURVICH